



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2014

No. 4

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious and changeless God, the creator of heavenly lights, Your mercies sustain us.

Today, use our Senators to accomplish Your will, making them faithful under trials and resolute when facing the difficult. Lord, even in their sorrowing seasons, motivate them to be transformed by Your liberating grace. Empower them to do the best they are capable of, bringing a harvest of courage, compassion, and service. Give them the wisdom to place their ultimate trust in You.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 8, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1845, the unemployment compensation legislation. We have no votes scheduled yet. When we are able to work something out in that regard, we will notify all Senate offices.

### UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Mr. REID. Yesterday's vote to advance a measure which is so vitally important to our country—to extend the lifeline to Americans who lost their jobs during this great recession—was a very positive development, but we are a long way from restoring benefits to 1.3 million people who have been looking for work for months, some of them for years.

The few Republicans willing to even debate this measure have already threatened to vote against even a short-term extension unless it is fully paid for.

Let me start by saying I am opposed to offsetting the cost of emergency unemployment benefits—I repeat, emergency unemployment benefits. I don't understand why my Republican colleagues can't read the script from the administration of their President, our President, President Bush. Five times during his time in office—the second

President Bush—we extended emergency unemployment insurance benefits by declaring an emergency, as we should now. We should realize that today there is only one job available for every three people seeking a job. Think about it.

This legislation calls for a 3-month extension. That is all. Let's extend this now and give those people their benefits, and then we will work to see whether we can come up with a long-term solution to this issue. I have heard one of the leaders in the House, one of the Republicans, say we need to do something about opportunities for jobs. We agree. Let's see what we can come up with, but let's extend the benefits for 3 months now.

Through the darkest days of the recession, these unemployment benefits kept millions of Americans from descending into poverty.

I again urge my Republican colleagues in Congress to pass this 3-month extension. It is what the American people want by a vast majority of all political stripes. We need to do this so we can negotiate a long-term solution to this issue. Any lapse or delay in benefits means 1.3 million people will be wondering whether they need to go to borrow money again or to maybe see if they can figure out a way to buy baby formula or gas for their car to go to a job interview if they are fortunate to have a car or a bus ticket.

If Republicans are so interested in paying for this measure, they should propose a reasonable way to do so that doesn't attack the Affordable Care Act or punish American children, as the two proposals they presented yesterday do—go after American children or the Affordable Care Act. They should propose an offset that might actually pass. Instead, they propose a string of political amendments, each more doomed to failure than the last one they offered.

They should also stop masking their reluctance to extend these benefits behind complaints about how many

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.